

# ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

275 OAK ST. SUITE 150  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203  
PHONE: 716-856-6525 x121 FAX: 856-6754  
E-MAIL: [tkniazuk@ecidany.com](mailto:tkniazuk@ecidany.com)  
[www.erie.gov/enrp](http://www.erie.gov/enrp)

## Co-Chairs:

Hon. Clyde Burmaster  
Hon. Barry Weinstein, MD

## Members:

James Allen  
Hon. Vince Anello  
Colleen DiPirro  
Tim Doolittle  
Hon. Wright Ellis  
Matthew Enstice  
Andrew Eszak  
Samuel Ferraro  
Hon. Joel Giambra  
Robert Gower  
Hon. Timothy Kennedy  
Hon. Kathy Konst  
David Lacki  
Celeste Lawson  
Gregory Lewis  
Hon. Cynthia Locklear  
Hon. Peter McMahon  
Hon. John Mills  
Hal Morse  
Jo Nasoff-Finton  
Hon. Sean O'Connor  
John Percy  
Dr. Gary Praetzel  
Melinda Rath Sanderson  
David Roll  
Hon. William Ross  
Laura St. Pierre Smith  
Christopher Schoepflin  
Hector Titus  
Timothy Wanamaker  
Peter Wendel

## Ad Hoc:

Michael Casale  
Lawrence Witul

## Administrator:

Tod A. Kniazuk

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Co-Chairs Clyde Burmaster & Barry Weinstein, MD**

**From: Economic Development Chair Hector Titus**

**Re: June, August, September, October, & November 2006 Meetings**

**Date: December 8, 2006**

---

The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership Economic Development Subcommittee met June 9, 2006 at the Erie County Industrial Development Agency. Present for the meeting were subcommittee members Titus, Konst, Nasoff, St. Pierre Smith, and Weinstein, as well as Tracey Houston of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership. The MBE/WBE Working Group met August 29, 2006, September 26, 2006, and October 24, 2006 at the Erie County Industrial Development Agency. ENRP members present for the August meeting were Titus, Casale, and St. Pierre Smith. ENRP members present for the September meeting were Titus and Konst. ENRP Member Titus was present for the October meeting. The subcommittee met November 15, 2006 at the Erie County Industrial Development Agency. Present for that meeting was ENRP member Titus, as well as Tracey Houston.

## Small Business Assistance Website:

On recommendation from ENRP members James Allen and Melinda Rath Sanderson, ENRP Administrator Tod A. Kniazuk and Sanderson met with Amherst Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Colleen DiPirro. Not only has DiPirro agreed to join ENRP, she offered \$25,000 to launch the website. The project would be advertised as the ENRP small business website, sponsored by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.

DiPirro also asked Kniazuk to come up with a three-year extension of the project, including the website and follow-up efforts that aim to steer users to the most effective programs and to improve those not operating at peak performance. This request – ranging from \$100,000 to \$300,000 – was included in a grant the Amherst CoC submitted to United States Congressman Tom Reynolds. We await word on the outcome of this submission. The

money for the launch of the site would be included in this grant amount, but would be available even if this grant is not successful.

MBE/WBE Procurement Programs:

Following the presentation on uniform certification for minority business procurement given at the June 2, 2006 general meeting the subcommittee decided to prioritize this issue for potential action. To begin work in earnest a working group was convened, consisting of the subcommittee, certifying agencies, and public officials who have been working on the issue.

The subcommittee decided to meet solely on this topic for the next few months unless a particular issue or project demands their attention. Subcommittee members are expected to attend the working group meetings in lieu of a regular subcommittee meeting.

Please see the attached minutes of the first two meetings of the working group for more information on this effort.

At the third meeting of the working group, those present failed to reach consensus as to the scope of the project. Every working group member is being asked to confidentially submit their opinions on the subject by January, 2007. ENRP Administrator Tod Kniazuk will use those submissions as the basis for a summary and proposal. At that point the working group will be reconvened.

Other Topics:

Other topics discussed included bio/alternative fuels, the Framework for Regional Growth, the Niagara Falls International Airport, and electronic permitting.